



**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING
37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail No. EV331453889 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

7/8/05

Date

Fani Malikouzakis

Name: Fani Malikouzakis

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.
Serial No : 09/896,032
Filed : June 29, 2001
For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV SEROCONVERSION
Art Unit : 1648
Examiner : Donna C. Wortman

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows: